

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 EUR-12 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FRB-03

COME-00 FEAE-00 AID-05 XMB-02 AGR-05 INT-05 STR-04

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P R 161615Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7916

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PORT OF SPAIN 1463

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ECIN XL TD JM GY VE

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS ON THE VENEZUELAN THREAT

REF: POS 862

CARACAS ALSO FOR DAO

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS HAS MADE A BLISTERING ATTACK ON VENEZUELA AND ON THOSE OF HIS NEIGHBORS WHO HAVE MADE DEALS WITH THIS LATIN AMERICAN INTERLOPER. IN A MAY 4 SPEECH JUST RELEASED DR. WILLIAMS ACCUSED VENEZUELA OF HAVING DESIGNS ON THE TERRITORY OF ITS NEIGHBORS, OF THREATENING THE FUTURE OF  
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CARIBBEAN INTEGRATION, AND OF SUPPORTING THE DESTRUCTION OF

CARICOM. HE WAS ALMOST EQUALLY HARD ON JAMAICA FOR MAKING DEALS WITH VENEZUELA WHICH THREATENED THE VIABILITY OF THE TRINIDAD-GUYANA-JAMAICA SMELTER PROJECT. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS RETURNED TO AN EARLIER THEME OF HIS CURRENT DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE WITH THE PUBLICATION JUNE 11 OF HIS MAY 4 ADDRESS TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL MOVEMENT (PNM) ON THE SUBJECT OF "THE THREAT TO THE CARIBBEAN." NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF THE SPEECH AT THE TIME REPORTED THE SPEECH ONLY IN VERY GENERAL TERMS BUT IT HAS NOW BEEN ISSUED AS A SEPARATE BOOKLET BY THE PNM AND LENGTHY EXCERPTS HAVE APPEARED IN THE TRINIDAD GUARDIAN. THE SPEECH IS BASICALLY AN ELABORATION ON THE CHARGES, WHICH DR. WILLIAMS HAD MADE PREVIOUSLY IN HIS SAN FERNANDO SPEECH ON APRIL 13 (REFTEL), THAT VENEZUELA AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES ARE ATTEMPTING TO "RECOLONIZE" THE CARIBBEAN. IN THE MAY 4 SPEECH, WHICH WAS A BASIS DOCUMENT OF A SPECIAL CONVENTION OF THE PNM CALLED FOR JUNE 15 (SEPTTEL), DR. WILLIAMS BROADENED HIS ATTACK TO INCLUDE CRITICISM OF JAMAICA FOR AIDING AND ABETTING VENEZUELA AND TOOK SEVERAL SHOTS IN PASSING AT CANADA, THE U.K., THE U.S. AND SIMON BOLIVAR. HIS CHIEF VILLAIN, HOWEVER, REMAINED VENEZUELA.

2. MADE IN DR. WILLIAMS' MORE LOOSELY ORGANIZED EXTEMPORANEOUS STYLE AND CONTAINING A GREAT MANY HISTORICAL REFERENCES, THE SPEECH CONTAINED FIVE MAIN POINTS:

A. VENEZUELA'S FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC POLICY OBJECTIVES CONSTITUTE A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE CARIBBEAN AND TO THE FUTURE OF CARIBBEAN INTEGRATION;

B. VENEZUELA POSES A SPECIFIC ECONOMIC THREAT TO THE EXPORT MARKETS OF INDIVIDUAL CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES;

C. OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, JAMAICA IN PARTICULAR, ARE COMPROMISING THEIR OWN INDEPENDENCE AND THAT OF THE REGION BY THEIR DEALS WITH VENEZUELA;

D. TRINIDAD IS VERY DISPLEASED WITH ITS PARTNERS IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRIPARTITE ALUMINUM SMELTER PROJECT FOR THEIR FAILURE TO CONSULT WITH TRINIDAD BEFORE MAKING OTHER DEALS WITH LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES; AND

E. THE THRUST OF VENEZUELA'S FOREIGN POLICY THREATENS THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GUYANA AND BELIZE.

IN MAKING THESE POINTS, DR. WILLIAMS DID NOT LIMIT HIMSELF

TO GEOPOLITICAL, HISTORICAL, AND ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS BUT ALSO REPEATEDLY ASSOCIATED VENEZUELA WITH TWO OF HIS FAVORITE WHIPPING BOYS - RACISM AND MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS - TO ENSURE THAT NO ONE MISSED THE POINT.

3. THE VENEZUELAN THREAT - DR. WILLIAMS ASSERTED THAT VENEZUELA HAS NOT ABANDONED ITS CLAIMS TO TRINIDAD BASED ON AN OLD SPANISH GRANT AND THAT, ALTHOUGH THESE CLAIMS ARE NOT MUTED BECAUSE OF A MORE ACTIVE CONCERN WITH THE DISPUTED AREA IN GUYANA, THE SITUATION COULD EASILY BE REVERSED. TO MAKE HIS POINT ABOUT VENEZUELA'S AGGRESSIVE FOREIGN POLICY, DR. WILLIAMS QUOTED APPROVINGLY THE CHARGE MADE IN AN ARGENTINE NEWS-PAPER EDITORIAL THAT VENEZUELA IS USING POWER POLITICS AND THE METHODS OF THE "CLASSICAL" POWERS ALONG WITH A NEW INSTRUMENT -- PETRODOLLARS -- TO EXTEND ITS INFLUENCE IN THE REGION. IN ANOTHER QUOTE -- THIS FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES -- VENEZUELA IS SAID TO HOPE TO SMOOTH THE FLOW OF ITS NON-PETROLEUM EXPORTS BY LINKING THEM TO OIL EXPORTS. VENEZUELA IS NOT A CARIBBEAN COUNTRY AT ALL ACCORDING TO DR. WILLIAMS BUT IS TRYING TO FORCE ITS WAY INTO THE REGION AND TO SUPPLANT THE WANING BRITISH INFLUENCE.

4. THE ECONOMIC THREAT - DR. WILLIAMS ASKED WHAT THE IMPACT OF THE ENORMOUS ALUMINUM CAPACITY WHICH VENEZUELA IS DEVELOPING WITH JAMAICA, SURINAM AND PROBABLY GUYANA UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE "BLUE-EYED BOYS" OF REYNOLDS COMPANY WILL BE ON THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET AND ON THE RELATIVELY SMALL SMELTER PLANNED BY THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT JAMAICAN PURCHASES OF OIL FROM VENEZUELA (WHICH ARE NOT COVERED BY CARICOM AGREEMENTS) HAVE ALREADY AFFECTED TRINIDAD'S PETROLEUM EXPORTS AND THAT, BY OFFERING TO BUILD A REFINERY IN SURINAM, VENEZUELA HAS SECURED ITS POSITION AS THAT COUNTRY'S SOURCE OF OIL IN SPITE OF SURINAM'S EARLIER APPROACHES TO TRINIDAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION ARA-10

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USIA-06 IO-10 EUR-12 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FRB-03

COME-00 FEAE-00 AID-05 XMB-02 AGR-05 INT-05 STR-04

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P R 161615Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7917

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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5. CARIBBEAN INDEPENDENCE - DR. WILLIAMS NOTED THAT IN 1968 WHEN GUYANA HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN AT A CARIFTA MEETING ABOUT THE FORMATION OF A TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - VENEZUELA MIXED COMMISSION, TRINIDAD HAD GIVEN WRITTEN ASSURANCES THAT ITS RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA WOULD NOT JEOPARDISE OR INTERFERE WITH CARIFTA. IT HAD ALSO AGREED NOT TO BRING OUTSIDERS INTO THE TRIPARTITE SMELTER PROJECT, GIVEN FINANCIAL AID TO JAMAICA, GUYANA, AND THE SMALLER ISLANDS, SUPPORTED A REGIONAL SHIPPING PROJECT, AND MADE SEVERAL PROPOSALS FOR OTHER REGIONAL PROJECTS INCLUDING ONE ON FOOD. NOW, HOWEVER, JAMAICA HAD, WITHOUT CONSULTATION, MADE AN AGREEMENT WITH VENEZUELA WHICH WILL SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE FUTURE OF CARICOM AND CARIBBEAN INTEGRATION, GUYANA WILL "ALMOST CERTAINLY" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JOINT IN A VENEZUELAN SMELTER DEAL, AND REGIONAL SHIPPING "HAS GONE NOW, CONFUSED INTO A LOT OF THINGS THAT CERTAINLY IS NOT GOING TO ALLOW FOR ANGUILLA AND MONTSEERRAT AND THE CARIBBEAN THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT." DR. WILLIAMS ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO THE DANGER TO CARICOM INHERENT IN THE AGREEMENT FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION UNDER WHICH JAMAICA WILL RECEIVE AID FROM VENEZUELA. "THE AGREEMENT IS THE AGREEMENT WHICH ELIMINATES BELIZE, A MEMBER OF CARICOM, AND WHICH

THREATENS

GUYANA, A MEMBER OF CARICOM, AND MAKES A DISTINCT REFERENCE TO THE DECLARATION OF GUYANA WHICH PUTS ALL OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY IN JEOPARDY." DR. WILLIAMS VIEWED WITH SPECIFIC ALARM THE "TOTAL" RAPPROACHEMENT BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND JAMAICA WHICH GOES SO FAR AS A TWIN CITY ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN CARACAS AND KINGSTON. BY MAKING DEALS WITH VENEZUELA, HE SAID, CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES ARE TRADING THEIR FORMER DOMINATION BY METROPOLITAN POWERS FOR DOMINATION BY SOMEONE ELSE. HE ASKS IF THEY ARE GOING TO "SACRIFICE THE WHOLE DIGNITY AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE FOR THE SAKE OF THIRTY INGOTS OF ALUMINUM."

6. TRINIDAD'S DISPLEASURE - AFTER DETAILING ALL OF THE TIME AND ENERGY SPENT BY TRINIDAD ON THE JOINT SMELTER PROJECT, INCLUDING HIS TRIPS ABROAD TO ARRANGE FINANCING, DR. WILLIAMS SAYS THAT THE GOVERNMENT SUDDENLY LEARNED, WITHOUT ANY FORE-WARNING, THAT OTHER ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE BY ITS PARTNERS INVOLVING THE CONSTRUCTION OF SMELTERS AND THE SUPPLY OF BAUXITE. HE RHETORICALLY ASKED "WHAT IS A SMELTER BETWEEN FRIENDS? A SMELTER IS THE CHANGE BETWEEN TOTAL CARIBBEAN INTEGRATION OF TOTAL RESOURCES USING CARIBBEAN RESOURCES, BORROWING SOME MONEY FROM OUTSIDE, AS AGAINST THIS PENETRATION..." HE IS ALSO MORE THAN A LITTLE CHAGRINED AT JAMAICA'S AGREEMENT TO BUY VENEZUELAN OIL AND TO SET UP AN ADDITIONAL REFINERY WHILE AT THE SAME TIME INSISTING THAT TRINIDAD BUY THE MORE EXPENSIVE POTATOES PRODUCED IN JAMAICA.

7. TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GUYANA AND BELIZE - HAVING BEEN PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN BOTH THE BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN GUYANA AND VENEZUELA AND GUATEMALA'S CLAIMS TO BELIZE, DR. WILLIAMS DWELT ON THESE SUBJECTS AT SOME LENGTH. THE "DECLARATION OF GUYANA", SIGNED BY VENEZUELA AND SIX CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, FULLY SUPPORTS THE GUATEMALAN CLAIMS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BELIZE - AN INTEGRAL PART OF CARICOM WHOSE RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE TRINIDAD HAS STEADFASTLY SUPPORTED. THE DECLARATION WAS SIGNED, HE SAYS, IN A PROVINCE OF VENEZUELA NEXT TO THE DISPUTED ZONE BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND GUYANA WHICH IS "A PISTOL POINTED PERMANENTLY AT THE HEART OF GUYANA." VENEZUELA EARLIER PROPOSED JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISPUTED AREA BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH, ACCORDING TO DR. WILLIAMS, WOULD HAVE CONSTITUTED "A TOTAL ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TAKEOVER OF THE DISPUTED ZONE," AS, BY IMPLICATION, WILL VENEZUELA'S PLANS FOR THE CARIBBEAN.

8. COMMENT: THIS SPEECH AS WELL AS DR. WILLIAMS PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE SAME SUBJECTS LEAD TO SEVERAL CONCLUSIONS: 1) WILLIAMS' FEARS OF VENEZUELA ARE VERY REAL AND ARE UNLIKELY TO BE EASILY OVERCOME; 2) HE APPEARS TO

BE GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT VENEZUELA AND OTHER NEWLY-RICH  
LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES EXPANDING THEIR INFLUENCE IN THE  
CARIBBEAN; AND 3) HE IS EVEN MORE GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT  
JAMAICA GOING OFF ON ITS OWN AGAIN AND AGAIN DAMAGING THE  
FRAGILE STRUCTURES OF CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION WHICH  
HAVE BEEN CREATED. THAT HE CHOSE TO MAKE PUBLIC HIS  
CRITICISM OF JAMAICA AND GUYANA ALSO INDICATES THAT THERE  
HAS BEEN A SERIOUS BREAKDOWN IN HIS COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE  
OTHER LEADERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN.  
RICH

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## Message Attributes

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